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Public Disclosure
Commission

October 2, 2008

Vicki Rippie
Executive Director
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION
PO BOX 40908
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-0908

Dear Ms. Rippie:

Please consider this request that the PDC look into possible disclosure and filing violations related to the group known as "Fuse." Fuse identifies itself as "a state-based online advocacy group working to provide a cutting edge online organizing and communications hub for Washington State."

Fuse's activities show that it does much more than that – including what appears to be grassroots lobbying, political action committee fundraising and political advertising.

First, Fuse Washington is registered as a non-profit, but the group is raising money for political purposes through email and on the www.fusewashington.org website. Fuse appears to have an affiliated PAC, "Fuse Votes" – but this is not where donors are directed to send a check. They are directed to send the check to Fuse Washington. See attachments. The fact the Fuse Washington is soliciting and receiving money for political purposes qualifies them as a PAC. (See attachments 1 & 2.)

Second, the election-related activities of Fuse (see for example attachments 3, 4, 5) fit squarely within the definition of "political advertising" in RCW 42.17.020(38), which means that a portion of Fuse's efforts should be considered an Independent Expenditure against candidate Dino Rossi. Despite its political advertising, Fuse is not doing any kind of reporting that would be required (top contributors, individual contributions, in-kind staff time, etc) of an independent expenditure effort.

Third, Fuse has led grassroots lobbying efforts and has failed to file as a grassroots lobbying organization. (See attachments 6, 7, 8.)

The Pierce County Republican party takes issues of public disclosure and transparency very seriously. Thank you in advance for your consideration of these important matters.

Sincerely,



Deryl McCarty
Chair, Pierce County Republican Party